Co-ordination between Centre and State agencies on water supply projects

†997. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is total co-ordination with regard to implementation of water supply projects between the agencies of Centre and State;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of districts included so far under this programme; and

(c) by when the remaining districts will be included in this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Rural Drinking Water is a State subject. Therefore, State Governments are responsible for providing drinking water facilities in the rural habitations. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments in this direction by providing financial support through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). ARWSP is in operation in the entire country and the State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply projects from the funds provided under ARWSP, as per the States' requirements.

Generation of employment

998. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic growth has not resulted in generation of employment for the rural people in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study to find out the reasons therefore;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to implement policy with the focus on employment generation through different short time programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) According to the Planning Commission the recent quinquennial round of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment reveals that employment opportunities in rural areas, on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis, increased from 241.04 million in 1993-94 to 250.89 million in 1999-2000. However, the higher rate of economic growth may not necessarily result in same rate of increase in employment generation as it depends upon a number of other factors also.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing employment generation programmes which includes the self-employment programme of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). In order to supplement the efforts of providing wage-employment in the rural areas, a National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched in 150 most backward districts of the coutnry in 2004-05. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been launched in 200 identified districts of the country in the first phase. These 200 districts include 150 districts where NFFWP was being implemented and now the SGRY and NFFWP will be merged under NREGA in these 200 districts. In addition to the above, the Ministry also implements Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for providing rural connectivity and area development programmes on watershed basis which also generate employment in the rural areas.

Water Quality Survey

999. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Water Quality Survey and as reported by the States nearly 2.2 lakh rural habitations are affected with different water quality problems as on March, 2004, and in Andhra Pradesh alone more than 4,000 habitations are affected due to fluoride, salinity, Arsenic, etc.;